

Ms. Clayton's historic efforts have not been in vain, but can rightfully serve as historical and intellectual nourishment for this generation as well as future generations of Americans.

□ 2000

When she learned that there was a location for her rare collection, which she kept in her garage, and I remember going over as a student at UCLA and going through her works for a paper that I had to do, I knew that she would outgrow that space and would have to find a place that could rightfully house such a precious collection. But we found a place for her. It was the old courthouse in Culver City. As you know, you cannot sell a courthouse; so we're on loan. They lent it to us for a period of time, and we're going to see that Federal grants go to that library to preserve this collection.

And I am so pleased to put that name into your psyche because she has skillfully, artfully, and scholarly recorded our history, as written by slaves themselves and written by free men.

Mayme Clayton, a true African American heroine.

Thank you, Stephanie Tubbs Jones, for giving me this time to talk about Mayme Clayton.

Mrs. JONES of Ohio. I would like to thank my colleague for always being with me and supporting me and the Congressional Black Caucus on issues that we present.

Madam Speaker, I would like to begin this evening by paying tribute to one of my she-roses and a pillar of the 11th Congressional District of Ohio and the Cleveland community, Judge Jean Murrell Capers.

At 95 years of age, Judge Jean Murrell Capers is still ticking and kicking. Known for her feistiness and zest for life, Judge Capers has been a trailblazer for many black women including myself in the law and politics.

A native of Kentucky, Judge Capers moved to Cleveland with her family 88 years ago. She still resides in the family house located in the heart of Cleveland. Judge Capers credits her parents with her success and longevity to the teachings instilled in her by her parents: "My parents provided my four siblings and me with what we needed, not what we wanted. The two things that impact on the individual are heredity and environment. The most important thing for you is to learn."

In 1932 Judge Capers began teaching in the Cleveland Public Schools. She went on to receive her law degree from Case Western Reserve University, which she calls the "Harvard of the Midwest."

Raised as a devout Presbyterian, Judge Capers says that the Bible and the Constitution are the two books she lives by. Through the teachings of the Bible and her Christian upbringing, she learned the importance of serving the community. That belief led her into politics.

Judge Capers began her profession in law and politics in 1945. She was the

first black woman in the United States to be elected a city council member and the first to serve as an assistant county prosecutor in Cuyahoga County. Because of her commitment to her community, Judge Capers was appointed by then Governor James Rhodes to serve as a municipal court judge, a position she was elected to once her appointment expired.

A member of my great sorority, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., Judge Capers has accumulated numerous awards including the Frances Payne Bolton Award presented by the Western Reserve Republican Club and has been inducted into the Ohio Women's Hall of Fame.

The interesting thing about Judge Capers' life is the fact that she was born on the very day that Delta Sigma Theta was founded and in the very same year. So we always call her our representative of Delta Sigma Theta.

Widely recognized for her gorgeous hats, Judge Capers continues to be an advocate for all people in the community. She still practices law at the age of 95. I can honestly say there would be no Stephanie Tubbs Jones were it not for Judge Jean Murrell Capers. So tonight I'm pleased to recognize her for her life of service and for all that she does on behalf of candidates throughout the State of Ohio and throughout the United States of America. Tonight she's still actively involved in the presidential elections. Though we're not on the same side, I still love her dearly.

Let me go on to talk now about the Urban League's State of Black America Study. Urban League president and CEO Marc Morial states: "By uplifting black women, especially those struggling hardest to keep their families together and their dreams on track, we lift up every American community."

I want to applaud the Urban League for having the vision to highlight the issues of black women in this country in this year's report. Oftentimes our issues are overlooked and/or marginalized. I would like to share with you a few excerpts from some of the essays featured in this year's report. This year's essayists do a fantastic job of highlighting the many struggles of black women in America.

Black women and the workplace: In her essay "African American Women and Work: Still a Tale of Two Cities," Alexis Herman has this to say regarding the inequality women face in the workplace:

"Over the last 60 years, the labor force participation of women has more than doubled, which means nearly one out of every two workers is a woman. However, this increase in labor force participation was driven largely by non-African American women deciding to work outside their homes. African American women have a long history of working outside of their homes and have the highest labor force participation rate among women, 63.4 percent. Not only are more women working, but more of these working women are

mothers as well. Further, one in four married working women earn more than their husbands. However, many African American women are concentrated in low-paying service jobs or staff positions. African American women are 6 percent of the workforce but 14 percent of workers earning between \$15,000 and \$30,000 per year and are less than 1 percent of workers earning over \$100,000 per year. Not only do African American women earn less, the growth in their earnings has lagged behind that of white women, 19 percent and 29 percent respectively. At the upper end of the earnings distribution, disparities in the labor market impact approximately 1 percent of African American women in corporate officer positions whose earnings are on average \$229,000 compared to \$250,000 for white women."

Taking the conversation even deeper is Dr. Julianne Malveaux, who in her essay, "Shouldering the Third Burden: The status of African American Women," she states:

"The labor market presents the most striking example of the third burden. Black men and women both experience higher unemployment rates than the general population. However, the unemployment and underemployment of black men shifts a disproportionate economic responsibility onto the shoulders of African American women, who then must support households and children without sufficient contribution from their spouses, partners, or fathers. The failure of public policy to create jobs and access to employment in the wake of urban deindustrialization puts African American men at a particular disadvantage and thereby places the burden of family survival on African American women."

Another article about black women and the foreclosure crisis is written by Andrea Harris, the president of the North Carolina Institute for Minority Economic Development, and she had this to say about the impact of the foreclosure crisis and its effect on African American women:

"Nearly two-thirds of the wealth possessed by African American families is in the form of home equity. Without homeownership most of these households own very little and have few opportunities to build economic security. Half of all African American households with children are headed by women; therefore, homeownership is an important economic advantage for these families.

"The 1977 Community Reinvestment Act was enacted to abolish redlining, but it created a market for predatory lending. A recent report by the Consumer Federation of America notes that subprime loans have gone disproportionately to women and that African American and Latina women have the highest rates of subprime lending when compared to all other Americans, especially white men who receive the lowest share of subprime